

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /133 W

----- 015263

R 191400Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCOMARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, AO, PO, MZ, CG, ZA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON MILITARY SITUATION IN ANGOLA

1. INFORMATION OFFICER FOR PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND GAVE BRIEFING TO CONGEN OFFICER AND JULIUS WALKER (AF/RA) ON MARCH 18. BRIEFING CONTAINED SEVERAL NEW POINTS MAINLY IN RELATION TO POLITICAL SITUATION AMONG LIBERATION GROUPS.

2. FNLA: BRIEFER STATED FNLA ATTEMPTING GAIN GROUND ON MORIBUND MPLA BY PUSHING OAU TO RECOGNIZE FNLA AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE. FNLA ALSO REPORTEDLY HAS OPENED AN OFFICE IN LUSAKA FOR FIRST TIME. (CAN AMEMBASSY LUSAKA CONFIRM?)

3. MPLA: PORTUGUESE NOW STATE THAT NETO, ALONG WITH 500 TROOPS LOYAL TO HIM, HAS LEFT ZAMBIA FOR BRAZZAVILLE, TO CONCENTRATE HIS ATTENTIONS ON CABINDA AND NORTHERN ANGOLA WHILE CHIPENDA RUNS SHOW IN ZAMBIA. BRIEFER ADDED THAT IN RECENT WEEKS PEACE FEELERS FROM CHIPENDA'S BRANCH OF MPLA HAVE GONE OUT TO UNITA WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S BLESSING. PORTUGUESE WORRIED
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OVER PROSPECT OF QUICK UPSURGE IN MPLA CAPABILITY IF THEY ABLE

UNITE WITH UNITA, WHO FIRMLY ROOTED IN CENTRAL ANGOLA. KAUNDA ALSO IS REPORTEDLY TRYING TO FORGE LINK BETWEEN MPLA IN ZAMBIA AND FNLA FORCES OPERATING IN ZAIRE JUST ABOVE ZAMBIAN-ZAIRIAN BORDER. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BRIEFER ADMITTED AN MPLA PRESENCE IN LUANDA, WAS VAGUE ON NUMBER BUT ADDED THAT OCCASIONALLY THE NAME "MPLA" IS FOUND SCRAWLED ON WALLS AND IN SCHOOLS - SOMETIMES PUT THERE BY WHITE YOUTH. HE ADDED THAT ISOLATED MPLA REMNANTS WHICH UNTIL 8 MONTHS AGO WERE LOCATED 70 MILES EAST OF LUANDA HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO A HUNTED GROUP OF 60 MEN WITH 40 RIFLES AND ABOUT 5 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION LEFT PER MAN.

4. BRIEFER DENIED KNOWLEDGE THAT ANY TROOPS ASSIGNED TO ANGOLA MAY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED RECENTLY TO MOZAMBIQUE (LUANDA 0147 AND LOURENCO MARQUES 0180).
BRIGGS

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